

Please amend claims 23 and 25 as follows.

1 23. (Twice Amended) An in situ method of detecting invasion of neoplastic colorectal cells into the

basement membrane of the lamina propria of a human comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining a sample of intestinal tissue which includes the basement membrane of the lamina propria;

b) contacting said sample with fully-complementary, detectable oligonucleotide probes that hybridize to mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein for a time sufficient for said fully-complementary, detectable oligonucleotide probes to hybridize to mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein present in cells of said sample;

c) removing detectable oligonucleotide probes which are not hybridized to mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein in cells of said sample; and

d) examining said sample to detect the presence of detectable oligonucleotide probes hybridized to mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein present in cells in the basement membrane of the lamina propria;

wherein the presence of mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein in cells in the basement membrane of the lamina propria indicates invasion of neoplastic colorectal cells into the basement membrane of the lamina propria of an individual.

2 25. (Twice Amended) An in situ method of detecting invasion of neoplastic colorectal cells into the basement membrane of the lamina propria of a human comprising the steps of: